

REMARKS

By the present amendment the applicant has amended the specification at page 1 to remove the reference to claim 1. Pages 2 and 3 have also been corrected to state that the zones 2' of the rear parts 2 of the bicycle saddle are concave rather than convex as originally stated. This typographical error is apparent from the drawings, particularly Figs. 1 to 3 which clearly show this area of the bicycle saddle to be concave. Section headings have also been added to the specification.

The claims have been amended hereby by cancelling original main claim 1 and replacing it with newly introduced independent claim 8. It is believed necessary to amend the main claim in this manner in order that it be clean and more easily read and understood since a number of grammatical and idiomatic expressions required correction. Also, zone 2' is now described as concave rather than convex. The dependent claims have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections and to change their dependencies to new claim 8.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, and 4 to 7 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 5,011,222, to Yates et al. The Examiner states that Yates et al discloses "that the two front zones of the two rear

parts of the saddle are joined together by a narrow trough shaped portion (14) and that they are shaped so that the rear edge (15) of the saddle (1) has a slight cove, actually at the longitudinal axis of symmetry of the saddle itself." The applicant wishes to point out to the Examiner that his reference to a "narrow trough shaped portion (14)" is in error. Specifically, Yates et al. refers to the reference numeral 14 as "a coccyx support" (Patent, Column 11, line 19). This coccyx support 14 is generally thoroughly described by Yates et al. in Columns 11 and 12. Specifically referring to Column 11, lines 29 to 32, it is stated that "Combining the upper coccyx support surface 31 with the side surfaces 29, a raised, wedge-like support surface is created in the upper half of the raised cantle 5." Clearly then, coccyx support 14 is not trough-shaped but rather it is raised above the surrounding surface of the saddle. The Examiner's attention is also directed to Figure 2 of Yates et al. which shows the contour lines of the saddle. As clearly seen therein, the contour lines around longitudinal axis A-A do not show the existence of a trough. Also, in Fig. 3 of Yates et al. showing an elevation of the saddle, it is clear that the center of the upper portion of the saddle is raised above the saddle surface. Figs. 5 to 7 of Yates et al. show three riding positions on the saddle which

are described in Column 14, lines 19 to 59 and in each one the coccyx 18 is supported by coccyx support area 14. Yet again in Column 13, lines 38 to 42, Yates et al refers to the saddle shown in Figs. 1, 2, 4, and 8 and describes the coccyx support area as "raised having wedge-like side surfaces and lies between the bilateral concavities 6."

It is clear from the above that the coccyx support 14 of the Yates et al. saddle is a raised element and is not in the form of a trough as is the area designated 9 in the present application. The benefit derived from the trough 9 of the present application is described in the specification at page 6, lines 9 to 14. The specific purpose of the trough 9 is to prevent the coccyx from coming into contact with the saddle during riding so as to prevent repercussions on the vertebrae of the spine. The Yates et al. reference teaches away from this concept by specifically providing a coccyx support element. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that Yates et al. does not anticipate the instant invention as described and claimed in newly introduced claim 8.

Next the Examiner rejected claim 3 as being obvious over the Yates et al. reference in view of U.S. Patent No.

5,356,205, to Calvert et al. under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Inasmuch as Calvert et al. does not supply the missing trough portion to Yates et al. and Yates et al. has been distinguished above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the elements of claim 3 are not shown by the cited references and is therefore not rendered obvious thereby.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2 to 8 herein are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious by the cited references and the rejections should therefore be withdrawn. Such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
Francesco RIONDATO

BY: Joseph J. Orlando
Joseph J. Orlando, Reg. No. 25,218
Elizabeth C. Richter, Reg. No. 35,103
Frederick J. Dorchak, Reg. No. 29,298
Edward Callaghan, Reg. No. 46,594

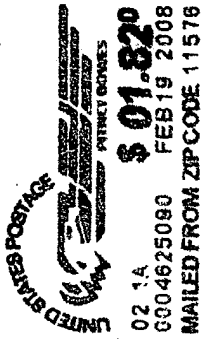
Attorneys for Applicant

BUCKNAM AND ARCHER
CUSTOMER No.: 178
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, NY 11576
516 365-9802

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Amy Klein
Amy Klein

LLARD & ROE, P.C.
NORTHERN BOULEVARD
LYN, NEW YORK 11576



Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

